

HISTORY OF ARBOR DALE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 543

Near the end of the last century people ventured into this region which was then known as part of the North West Territories. They built their log cabins, cleared small patches of land and in this manner began a settlement.

In 1894 the G.H. Brown family arrived here in a covered wagon after driving all the way from Idaho. Geo. McKeever came in 1895, the James Eadie family from South Dakota 1898, The A.C. Bruns' family in 1899 and Fred Ducketts' from Iowa in 1900. *T. Stewart in 1895 after McKeever*

On March 2nd, 1900 a meeting was held at the G.H. Brown home about the organization of a school district and the following trustees were elected: Simeon Kanngiesser, Harry Unwin and G.H. Brown, W. Marshall was secretary and F.B. Watson Assessor.

At a ratepayers meeting on May 19, 1900, F.B. Watson was elected trustee in place of Simeon Kanngiesser who had resigned.

On June 9th, 1900 a meeting was held for calls for tenders to build the school.

At a meeting held July 24th, 1900, A. Cooper was elected as a new trustee to replace H. Unwin.

On September 1st another meeting was held at which it was decided the size of the school building would be 20 ft. by 30 ft. by 10 ft. and that taxes would be levied at the rate of \$6.00 per quarter section.

December 5th, 1900, Mr. Madison was given the contract to build a foundation 20 by 30 ft.

December 8th, 1900, tenders for a well to be dug were entered and Mr. Bineman's tender for \$12.55 was accepted.

On January 10, 1901 C. King's plans for the building were approved. January 26th, 1901 was the annual meeting at C. Diethelms where Thomas Stewart was elected to the position of Trustee in place of F.B. Watson. At this meeting it was decided that the Board complete an agreement with F. Russell for an acre of land for the school site. Said site was to be located as near the centre as it could be on the East side of the N.E. quarter of section 23, township 41, range 27, West of the 4th meridian.

In March 1901 the sum of \$500.00 was borrowed for the erection of the school building and T. Aarstad was to be foreman for the building operations.

In April 1901 the following men were found working on the school: C.H. McKinney, B.S. Burke, G.H. Brown, W. Marshall, J.N. Flewelling, F.B. Stewart, G.W. Tisdale, L. Madison, J. Tees, and F. Riesterer. Wages were 17½¢ per hour.

At a meeting on April 1st, 1901, the secretary was requested to write to Regina for a teacher. On April 19th the board decided to employ Miss Berger as a teacher at a salary of \$45.00 per month for a term of seven months.

The first pupils attending school were: Fred Kanngiesser, Sim Kanngiesser, Maud Stewart, Herb Stewart, May Stewart, Bill Stewart, Clifford Unwin, Jessie Unwin, Martha McKeever, Annie Brown, Clarence Eadie, Roy Greenlee, Lewis Tisdale, Byron and Berneice Butcher. Miss Berger resigned in August 1901 and Miss Hunter finished out the year as teacher.

John Hopps plastered the school and W.J. Franklin did the painting. A rail fence was built by Wm. Pashen at a cost of \$19.25 and in October 1902 it was decided to build a stable 12 ft. by 24 ft. in size. The Board hired May Stewart to do the caretaking for \$1.00 per month. The following year the two Stewart girls May and Maud were paid \$15.00 for the year's work and this included washing the towels as well. (Incidentally 12 yds. of towelling were purchased at 10 cents per yard).

Another little item about prices--butter sold for 8 cents a pound and wages of a man and team were \$1.00 a day. The minute book of the district records Bert Butcher as supplying wood for the school in 1903 at a rate of \$1.00 per single cord, so it looks as if a Dollar was of considerable importance in those times.

The name Arbor Dale, meaning Trees by the Water or Trees in the Valley was suggested by Mr. Cooper, a Scotchman.

In those early days, roads, or rather a lack of them was a great handicap. Trails were the common thing and usually crossed in many places in order to use existing bridges and also to avoid the numerous sloughs.

When a new settler arrived the ones already established flocked to his place without invitation and helped erect log buildings.

Some of the early settlers and those who followed later, aside from the ones mentioned previously were: A.W. Ogilvie and family, Mrs. Margaret Ogilvie (widow) and one son Welsley, Mrs. Ward and two sons, H. Podersky and family (now of Edmonton), Oshea Bros. (bachelors), James Cannon and family, Fred Stewart, McPherson Bros. followed by John Flewelling, W. Winslow and family followed by Sam Campbell, B.S. Burke and family, P.T. Marshall (bachelor), Jack Connor (bachelor), Tom Stewart and family, Reisterer Bros. (bachelors) later a sister kept house for them. George Teager followed by F. Butcher, M. Greenlee and family, Goodlaxon, Simeon Kanngiesser, Fred Duckett and family, Herman Riesterer followed by J.M. Douglas, Fawcett Brothers, and sister Mrs. Northwood, Ochs Sr., Ted McCarty, Cooper Brothers, Billy Bineman.

The Fairview church was built in 1900 and has played an important part in the lives of the members of the community. The Ladies Aid which was organized in 1904 or 05 has been and still is an active organization and has not only assisted in Church Activities but in many other community projects. The same year they organized, they presented an organ to the school. Reverend M. White was the first pastor in 1900, previously services were held in the homes, Wm. Fawcett's home being the first. His sister, Mrs. Northwood kept house for him. The minister came from Milton District. Later services were held at the homes of H. Stewart, G. McKeever and G. Brown. When the McKeever's acquired an organ, services were held there regularly. Miss Rhoda King from Iowalta and Mrs. Alf. Widdle were organists. The first Sunday School Superintendent was Mr. George Reed of Lacombe. The first Christmas Tree was held at the home of Geo. Brown (log house). Also the first Box Social was held at G. Brown's. The first Community Supper was at Bert and Cora Butchers. James Eadie obtained a permit to cut logs for the erection of the church. The land on which to build the church was given by William Marshall. Work on the building was donated and it was built under the supervision of Geo. McKeever Sr.

Mr. Fred Duckett arranged with his father-in-law, Mr. Henry to bring a new organ in his car of household effects from Iowa (for the church).

When the piano was obtained the organ found its way to the United Church in Lacombe where it still serves the Sunday School. The transaction of getting a piano and disposing of the organ was conducted by Mr. Ned Woody of Lacombe.

A government grant of 40 acres was given to many churches, Fairview included. In 1916 the land was sold to Mrs. Henry Unwin and a room was built to the North of the church and a porch at the South. Men of the district gathered and planted trees while the ladies cleaned the church. The first secretary of the congregation was William Marshall. Managers in the early days included A. Ogilvie, S. McKeever, James Eadie, Thomas Stewart, George Brown. Later there were Marshall Douglas, Fred Stewart, D.C. Fawcett, E.H. Aldwinkle and many others too numerous to mention.

Ladies' Aid -- The first meeting was held at Mrs. John Schrumm's about the year 1905. Present were Mrs. James Eadie, Mrs. Tom Stewart, Mrs. G. McKeever, Mrs. Geo. Brown, Mrs. George Tisdale, Mrs. Fred Butcher, Mrs. Bert Butcher, Mrs. B.S. Burke, Mrs. Fred Stewart, Mrs. Fred Duckett, Mrs. Madison, Mrs. D.C. Fawcett, Mrs. Schrumm, Miss M. Douglas, Miss Jennie Riesterer.

By the year 1908 some of the people had phones installed and these proved a great convenience, especially in case of sickness.

At a meeting of the school board in the year 1912 it was moved that B. Butcher look after getting someone to do levelling and seeding of the school grounds and put in 300 ft. of hitching racks while at this time the tender of William Whitecotton was accepted for the building of another fence.

Now we have reached the year 1914. We note school taxes at this time were ten cents per acre or approximately \$16.00 a quarter section and the teacher's salaries had jumped to \$720.00 a year.

The First World War 1914-1918 came and several men from the district joined the ranks to fight for home and country. Earlier we have Norm Fawcett as fighting in the Boer War of 1900. Those who were in World War 1 were: E.H. Aldwinkle, George Taylor, Ernest Whitecotton, Jack Roberts, Jake McDougal, Ted McCarty, Isadore and Fred Kanngiesser, Bert Unwin and Hugh Dool.

Something of interest we almost omitted were the Annual Picnics at Henry's Lake. These were always looked forward to with much pleasure. Often decorated floats were used for the children and the people of Morningside, Milton, Iowalta, Fairview and Lacombe attended.

The prosperous 1920's arrived and farmers were able to improve their farm buildings and buy better machinery. It was during this period 1923, to quote from the minute book that meetings and discussions re the building of a two room school took place. Finally a vote was taken and the result was against this.

Then came the depression of the thirties. By 1931 the school enrolment had increased so much that the little red school room was badly crowded. The school inspector recommended the building of a larger school but this was postponed owing to the financial condition of the country.

In January 1937 (at the annual meeting) it was moved by O. Fawcett and seconded by N. Flewelling that the trustees get in touch with the school inspector for the purpose of getting information about the building of a

new school. A special meeting was called in March for the ratepayers to discuss this and it was moved and seconded, carried, that a new school be built.

An acre of land was purchased from A.C. Bruns for \$15.00 and Mr. McCormick was instructed to continue with the surveying of the school grounds.

On September 30th, 1937 the Board accepted the tender from the Waterman Waterbury Company for the building of the school for the sum of Twenty-eight hundred dollars (\$2800.00), said building to be 24 ft. by 38 ft. A committee was later appointed to dispose of the old school building. When no longer in use it was sold to Mr. Butcher for \$30.00.

In April 1938 the school building was completed and the Board inspected it and reported to the Waterman and Waterbury Company that they would accept it as satisfactory.

1939 arrived and with it a Second World War. The ones who enlisted were: Frank Butcher, Bill Butcher, Harold, Melvin and Cecil Madden, Robert Johnson, James Johnson, Edward and George Chessor, Basil King, John King, Ron Ogilvie, Bob Calkins, Joe Calkins, Tom McMullen (merchant seaman), Hynes Riesterer, Percy Lewis, Gerald Duckett (RCAF), Gus Bruns.

The larger school units were making headway throughout the province and this district was a part of the Ponoka School Division during 1940 - 41 - 42. Since then it has been included in the Lacombe School Division No. 56.

In 1951 and 1952 the Calgary Power Company put lines into the district and many of the farms were equipped with electricity. In 1954 it was installed in the school house.

So the years have sped by and the district has grown from a mere handful of people to the populous one of today; from the oxen drawn walking plow to the tractor, tiller, combine and other power machinery; from the little clearings and log houses to the well tilled fields and fine buildings; from the little trails of the pioneers to the gravelled roads where good cars and school buses travel daily; from the coal oil lamps to the electrically lighted homes and farm yards of today.

It would be too bad to close this history without special mention of the men who served the district long and faithfully in the capacity of school trustee. For them we tender our thanks. R. Riesterer served the longest, being trustee for twenty-four years, Angus Johnson for nineteen, and O. Munroe twelve years, O. Fawcett and N. Flewelling for eleven years, B.S. Burke and Carl Duckett ten years, and J. Douglas seven years. The teachers who taught in the school the longest were Albert Bruns seven years and Mrs. Jack Lawrence and Mrs. Frankie Sutton five years.

List of School Trustees - Abror Dale School District
1900 - 1955 -56

Trustees March 2nd, 1900 - G.H. Brown, H. Unwin, Simeon Kanngiesser

May 9th, 1900 - G.H. Brown, H. Unwin, F.B. Watson

July 24th, 1900 - G.H. Brown, F.B. Watson, A Cooper

1901 - G.H. Brown, A. Cooper, Thomas Stewart

January, 1902 - G.H. Brown, Thomas Stewart, and G.M. McKeever

February, 1902 - G.H. Brown, Thomas Stewart, G.W. Tisdale

- 1903 - Thomas Stewart, G.W. Tisdale, F. Butcher
- 1904 - G.W. Tisdale, F. Butcher, James Eadie
- 1905 - F. Butcher, James Eadie, F.H. Duckett
- 1906 - James Eadie, F.H. Duckett, E.A. Goodlaxon
- 1907 - F.H. Duckett, A. Erickson, H. Unwin
- 1908 - F.H. Duckett, A. Erickson, A.C. Bruns
- 1909 - F.H. Duckett, A.C. Bruns, L. Madison
- 1910 - F.H. Duckett, A.C. Bruns, L. Madison
- 1911 - A.C. Bruns, L. Madison, B.S. Burke
- 1912 - A.C. Bruns, B.S. Burke, B.F. Butcher
- 1913 - B.S. Burke, F. Stewart, Chas. Flewelling
- 1914 - B.S. Burke, Fred Stewart, C.B. Dunker
- 1915 - B.S. Burke, Fred Stewart, C. Madden
- 1916 - B.S. Burke, Fred Stewart, C. Madden
- 1917 - B.S. Burke, Fred Stewart, C. Madden
- 1918 - B.S. Burke, Fred Stewart, Byron Butcher
- 1919 - B.S. Burke, Byron Butcher, R. Riesterer
- 1921 - R. Riesterer, Marshall Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1922 - R. Riesterer, Jim Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1923 - R. Riesterer, Jim Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1924 - R. Riesterer, Jim Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1925 - R. Riesterer, Jim Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1926 - R. Riesterer, Jim Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1927 - R. Riesterer, Jim Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1928 - R. Riesterer, Jim Douglas, M.O. Munroe
- 1929 - R. Riesterer, M.O. Munroe, C. Unwin
- 1930 - R. Riesterer, M.O. Munroe, C. Unwin
- 1931 - R. Riesterer, M.O. Munroe, C. Unwin
- 1932 - R. Riesterer, M.O. Munroe, C. Unwin
- 1933 - R. Riesterer, C. Unwin, Carl Duckett
- 1934 - R. Riesterer, C. Unwin, Carl Duckett
- 1935 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1936 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1937 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1938 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1939 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1940 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1941 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1942 - R. Riesterer, Carl Duckett, Angus Johnson
- 1943 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1944 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1945 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1946 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1947 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1948 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1949 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1950 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1951 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1952 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1953 - Angus Johnson, O. Fawcett, N. Flewelling
- 1954 - Don Calkins, Bill Ogilvie, Eugene Duckett
- 1955-56 - Don Calkins, Bill Ogilvie, Eugene Duckett

Teachers of Arbor Dale School District 543 1901 to 1955-56

- 1901 - Miss Berger and Miss Hunter
- 1902 - Miss Scott and Agnes Watters
- 1903 - J.F. Shaw and G.E. Martin
- 1904 - G.E. Martin
- 1905 - Miss Stinebaugh
- 1906 - Miss K. Speakman
- 1907 - Miss Mae Hood
- 1908 - W.M. McClenn
- 1909 - Miss Russell and T. McSallen
- 1910 - T. McSallen and F. McNevin
- 1911 - J.L. West
- 1912 - May Hood
- 1913 - Miss Nicholson
- 1914 -
- 1915 - Miss Archibald and Miss Nicholson
- 1916 - Miss Nicholson and Mrs. L.A. Stebbings
- 1917 - Jean Thelma Dobson and Miss McAllister
- 1918 - Miss A. McAllister, Ida Wright, and Effie M. Forrest
- 1919 - Miss Effie M. Forrest and Miss A.B. Lawrence
- 1920 - Miss A.B. Lawrence
- 1921 - Miss M.I. Hanrahan
- 1922 - Miss L. Whitney
- 1923 - Miss B. Garrison and Mrs. E.M. Walters
- 1924 - Mrs. E. M. Walters
- 1925 - Mrs. E. M. Walters
- 1926 - Mrs. E. M. Walters and A. U. Wilson
- 1927 - A.U. Wilson
- 1928 - Art Wilson
- 1929 - Art Wilson
- 1930 - Miss Lett
- 1931 - Mr. Wright and Albert Bruns
- 1932 - 1936 - Albert Bruns
- 1937 - Albert Bruns (part of year) and Helen McGee
- 1938 - Helen McGee
- 1939 - Helen McGee part of the year
- 1939 - 1940 - Albert Bruns (part of 1940)
- 1940 - Miss Williams
- 1941 - Miss Donally
- 1942 - Miss Marjorie Woods
- 1943 - 1946 - Mrs. Jack Lawrence
- 1946 - 1947 - Students bussed to Lacombe
- 1947 - 1948 - Mrs. Jack Lawrence
- 1948 - 1949 - Mrs. Helen Newman
- 1949 - 1950 - Miss E. Russell
- 1950 - 1955 - Mrs. Frankie Sutton
- 1955 - 1956 - Mrs. F.E. Wright

Courtesy of Arbor Dale Students 1955-56 and
Mrs. F.E. Wright, Teacher.

In the fall of 1956 the School was closed and the buildings moved away and the land sold to the owner of quarter.